

Feb. 2010

Testimony in support of Paid Sick Days, SB 63.

*To the Labor Committee:*

I write in regards to paid sick day legislation, I would like you to realize how much a minimum amount of paid sick days is needed by all employees.

I have been working for a mailing company for over 6 years and I do not have any paid sick days. A day's pay is very important for me to keep up on bills and payments. Therefore when I am sick, I cannot miss a day of work, so I go to work anyway.

If I had paid time off I could go to a doctor to get healthy faster, instead I risk getting sicker by going to work and I also risk getting my coworkers sick. Many people are going to work sick because of the economic recession, people cannot afford to miss work, therefore spreading illnesses around. I read that millions of people got swine flu at work.

I cannot even use vacation time as days off. I don't understand why, a day off isn't a day off. I wouldn't mind using vacation time when I'm sick, but my boss won't let me use it for an emergency. I even get punished for taking unpaid days off when I'm sick. I don't need more time off, I just need it for emergencies when I'm sick. Like the bill, I don't care what it is called, I just want a day to call out when I am sick.

This does not seem fair and I think something should be done about it. I just want to be able to not have to come in to work sick without having to be worried about falling behind on my bills or getting fired.

Legislation giving employees paid sick days would be great, I know that many people support this bill and I hope you do too.

Thank you,

Besim Nela

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